

# Fun Facts — Fishermen's Superstitions

Though not believed by all, and not consistent across all **fisheries** or regions, many fishermen believe in or follow some of these superstitions:

- A woman on board makes the seas angry and is an omen of bad luck.
- Sailors who wear earrings or have tattoos won't drown.
- Fishermen throw quarters of half dollars over their shoulders to “buy up” some wind when crews are overworked.
- Silver dollars are put underneath the mast when a boat is being built to bring good luck.
- It is bad luck to see an albatross or hear a loon cry.
- Saying the words “alligator” or “pig” bring bad luck.
- Never whistle because it will bring a gale.
- Bananas bring bad luck to fishing and could mean disaster for the trip.
- Never start a trip on a Friday. The best day to start a trip is on a Sunday, “Sunday sail, never fails.”
- Avoid people with red hair when going to the ship to begin a journey.
- Never say good luck or allow someone to say good luck to you.
- Disaster will follow if you step onto a boat with your left foot first.
- Pouring wine on the deck will bring good luck on a long voyage.
- Flowers are unlucky onboard a ship.
- Don't look back once your ship has left port as this can bring bad luck.
- A dog seen near fishing tackle is bad luck.
- Black cats are considered good luck and will bring a sailor home from the sea.
- Dolphins swimming with the ship are a sign of good luck.
- Cutting your hair or nails at sea is bad luck.
- If you carry a fishing pole into the house before a fishing trip you will not catch any fish.
- If you play a fiddle or guitar, the fish will come to the surface because they love the music.
- If you talk while fishing, the fish will hear you and not bite.
- The person who swears while fishing will not catch a fish.
- When owls hoot during the day is a good time for catching catfish.

## References

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